

In both of the rejections, the examiner indicates “it is unclear whether in an uncoupled state of the coupling, the compression spring pushes the nipple out of the sleeve to such an extent that the engagement section is outside the sleeve. Such is dependent upon such parameters as the elastic force of the compression spring, the weight of the pipe nipple, the frictional force between the pipe nipple and the socket, etc.” (Page 5 Lines 3-7). The examiner then concluded that it would be obvious to design the spring to push the nipple out to the extent needed.

Claim 8 originally was considered to be sufficient. Amendment has been made to Claim 8 to emphasize that it is the position of the locking alignment and the engagement section and the strength of the compression strength are such that in an uncoupled state of the coupling, the compression spring pushes the nipple out of the sleeve to such an extent that the engagement section is outside the sleeve.

In Yeoman, the spring 86 determines the differential pressure which is needed to move the flow control member 14 away from the seat 20. To design this spring so as to push the nipple out may create a pressure differential which is unacceptable to control the valve. The spring in the present device is for urging the nipple out and it is not designed for flow differential respect to a valve seat. This proposition of the adaptation of Yeoman is the reconstruction of Yeoman to meet the present claim in hindsight instead of a logical extension.

In Klein, the purpose of spring 21 is to keep the seat 15 on the head 3. In the embodiment of Figure 5, the spring 21 is even removed and the seat 15 is increased in length. As indicated in the Paragraph in Column 2 beginning on Line 42, the dimension of the spring 21, the bushing 35, the collar 7, ring 33 and the juncture 41 are such that the spring 21 is not under compression until the head 3 is substantially inserted within the recessed 39. The spring 21 is designed to maintain a seal not to push the head 3 out of the body. Thus one cannot surmise that the small amount of compression shown in Figure 3 is sufficient to move the juncture 41 exterior through the body 9. The nonlocking connection shown in Figure 3 is the problem that the present application is addressing. This is not a locked position as shown in Figure 4.

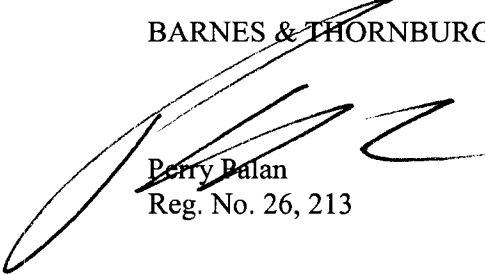
Thus Claim 8 is not considered to be obvious in view of either Yeoman or Klein et al. nor is the suggested modifications of obviousness in view of the prior art.

It should also be noted that the other dependent claims are allowable for their own distinct limitations.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Barnes & Thornburg LLP Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (967/44780).

Respectfully submitted,

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